

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 16, 2006. Claims 1 to 10, 16 to 20, 26 to 41, 45 to 47, 49 and 51 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 16, 26, 31, 32, 37, 45, 49 and 51 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, 32, 37, 45, 49 and 51 were objected to for an informality. "The" function status having been amended herein in each of pending Claims 1, 16, 26, 32, 37, 45, 49 and 51 to read -- a -- function status, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 45, 49 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that the foregoing amendments have corrected the alleged lack of antecedent basis and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 to 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,198,542 (Tabata). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to an information processing apparatus (Claims 16 and 45) for communication with an image processing apparatus which has a plurality of image processing functions or to a system (Claim 1) including the information processing apparatus and the image processing apparatus.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print system which includes an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions, wherein the image

processing apparatus has a print engine; and an information processing apparatus for generating print data to be transferred to the image processing apparatus. The information processing apparatus acquires, from the image processing apparatus, information indicating a function status of the plurality of image processing functions, also executes a process of transferring the generated print data to the image processing apparatus and displays the function status of the plurality of image processing functions on a display unit based on the acquired information. When a predetermined print processing function included in the plurality of image processing functions obtains the print engine, the information processing apparatus displays information indicating that the predetermined print processing function is being executed and information showing that the print engine cannot be used for one of the plurality of image processing functions for the generated print data, wherein the predetermined print processing function has higher priority than the image processing function for the generated print data and the information processing apparatus displays the function status of the predetermined print processing function in an emphasized manner.

Accordingly, in a system in accordance with Claim 1, when the print engine is intercepted by one of the plurality of image processing functions with higher priority, the information processing apparatus is informed of the fact and displays a message to that effect on a display unit. In addition, the information processing apparatus displays the function status of the image processing function with higher priority in an emphasized manner.

Claim 16, which is directed to the information processing apparatus included in the system of Claim 1, has been amended for consistency with the amendments to Claim 1.

In contrast to Claims 1 and 16, Tabata discloses a network control system which outputs documents and figures from an image forming apparatus based on an image forming condition as provided by a computer. The network control system displays candidate image forming apparatuses on a display screen such as shown in Figs. 5 and 6 for selection one of the image forming apparatuses. The documents and figures are then output by the selected image forming apparatus.

However, Tabata fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claims 1 and 16. Specifically, Tabata fails to disclose or suggest an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions. Furthermore, Tabata fails to disclose or suggest that a predetermined print processing function included in the plurality of image processing functions may obtain the print engine. Finally, Tabata fails to disclose or suggest that if an image processing function of higher priority is executed in the image forming apparatus, the function status of that image processing function is displayed in an emphasized manner.

In light of these deficiencies of Tabata, Applicant submits that amended independent Claims 1 and 16 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 26, 32 and 37 are directed to a method, a program stored on a computer-readable medium and a computer readable memory medium, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claims 16. As such, Applicant submits that Claims 26, 32 and 37 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 45 is directed to an information processing apparatus for transferring print data by communication with an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions, the image processing

apparatus having a print engine that can be used by the plurality of image processing functions for printing data on a recording medium. The information processing apparatus comprises control means for controlling a process of transferring the print data to the image processing apparatus and controlling a display for displaying the function status of the plurality of image processing functions on a display unit, wherein, when in place of one of the plurality of image processing functions another one of the plurality of image processing functions obtains the print engine, said information processing apparatus displays on the display unit information indicating that the one image processing function cannot be executed, and wherein the other image processing function has higher priority than the one image processing function and said information processing apparatus displays the function status of the other image processing function in an emphasized manner.

As discussed above, Tabata fails to disclose or suggest that if an image processing function of higher priority is executed in the image forming apparatus, the function status of that image processing function is displayed in an emphasized manner. In light of this deficiency of Tabata, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 45 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 49 and 51 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, corresponding to Claims 45 respectively. As such, Applicant submits that Claims 49 and 51 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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